

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 L-01 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OES-02 OMB-01 PM-03  
SP-02 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF:SWBOSWORTH:KAM  
APPROVED BY EB:JLKATZ  
EUR/RPE:DLAMB

----- 021636 /21

P 160043Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304595

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: IEA - CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BOARD

1. AS A RESULT OF DAVIGNON'S SELECTION FOR THE EC COMMIS-  
SION, WE NOW FACE THE NEED TO SELECT A NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE  
IEA GOVERNING BOARD. WE HAD EARLIER HOPED THAT DAVIGNON  
WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTINUE IN THE IEA SLOT FOR AN INTERIM  
PERIOD OF PERHAPS SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE REDUCED DEPEND-  
ENCE EXERCISE JUST LAUNCHED. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOW INDICATED  
TO US THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM, AS A COMMIS-  
SIONER, TO CONTINUE IN THE IEA.

2. THUS FAR, FOUR INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS  
POSSIBLE CANDIDATES: (1) TOWE OF CANADA; (2) ROWEDDER OF  
GERMANY; (3) ERSBOLL OF DENMARK (CURRENTLY DANISH PERM REP  
IN BRUSSELS BUT SCHEDULED TO GO BACK TO COPENHAGEN AS UNDER  
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS); AND (4) RAMPTON OF THE UK.  
TOWE IS CURRENTLY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND  
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THE ONLY -- -- DECLARED CANDIDATE, AS THE CANADIAN

GOVERNMENT HAS ADVISED OTHER IEA MEMBERS THAT IT WOULD MAKE HIM AVAILABLE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP IF HE IS SELECTED.

3. AT PRESENT, WE HAVE NO PREFERENCE AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED. WE ARE LESS CONCERNED WITH THE NATIONALITY OF THE NEXT CHAIRMAN THAN WITH THE INDIVIDUAL HIMSELF. WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE IEA CONTINUE TO HAVE THE VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED DAVIGNON'S CHAIRMANSHIP. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT CHAIRMAN SHOULD COMMAND GENERAL SUPPORT AND BE, IN EFFECT, A CONSENSUS CHOICE. THEREFORE, WE WANT TO CONSULT WIDELY ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH OTHER IEA MEMBERS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND DAVIGNON HAS BEGUN A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS SUCCESSOR. HE HAS TOLD US THAT, IN BALANCE, HE BELIEVES NEW CHAIRMAN SHOULD COME FROM SMALL, NON-OIL PRODUCING COUNTRY WITHIN EC WHO WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF HIS TIME TO IEA AFFAIRS. ON THIS BASIS, HIS PREFERENCE AMONG THE FOUR LISTED ABOVE IS ERSBOLL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE LACKS BOTH TOWE AND RAMPTON'S EXPERIENCE IN THE IEA AND, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THE ENERGY BACKGROUND OF RAMPTON. THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO MEET DECEMBER 20. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DAVIGNON MAY WISHTO SETTLE THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THAT MEETING. WE OURSELVES DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD GIVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR THOROUGH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND THAT A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE WILL HAVE EMERGED THAT SOON. THEREFORE, OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO DEFER FINAL DECISION ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE UNTIL THE FIRST GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN 1977. WE WOULD HOPE THAT DAVIGNON WOULD NOT HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN STAYING ON AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE NEXT MEETING AT WHICH THE SELECTION OF HIS SUCCESSOR COULD BE THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

5. FOR BONN: PLEASE RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE SUCCESSOR TO DAVIGNON WITH ROWEDDER. YOU SHOULD DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON PARAS 1-4, STRESSING THAT THE US HAS NO PREFERENCE AT PRESENT AND THAT WE WANT TO CONSULT WIDELY WITH OTHER MEMBERS. YOU SHOULD ASK WHETHER ROWEDDER HIMSELF WOULD IN FACT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE JOB, AND ASK FOR ANY INFORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEWS THE FRG MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING THE OTHER THREE NAMES MENTIONED, OR POSSIBLE OTHER CANDIDATES. (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THROUGH DAVIGNON THAT ROWEDDER MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE. END FYI.)

6. FOR LONDON: PLEASE RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH RAMPTON AND OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL UK OFFICIALS ALONG THE SAME LINES SET FORTH IN PRECEEDING PARAGRAPH AND INQUIRE

BOTH REGARDING RAMPTON'S OWN AVAILABILITY AND ANY VIEWS  
THE UK MIGHT HAVE ON OTHER CANDIDATES. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEES, ELECTION CANDIDATES, NATIONALITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE304595  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SWBOSWORTH:KAM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760462-0642  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761236/aaaabffo.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IEA - CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BOARD  
**TAGS:** ENRG, GE, DA, UK, IEA, (ROWEDDER), (TOWE), (ERSBOLL)  
**To:** BONN LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006